MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Fantastic Four
399
APR
WHAT THE--?!
REED and SUE
DEATH-STRUGGLE
in the NEGATIVE
ZONE?!
RYAN + BULANADI

BEN GRIMM, THE THING! SUE RICHARDS, INVISIBLE WOMAN! JOHNNY STORM, THE HUMAN TORCH! TRANSFORMED BY AN ACCIDENT IN OUTER SPACE INTO SOMETHING MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN, THEY VOWED TO USE THEIR AWESOME POWERS TO HELP MANKIND CHART THE UNKNOWN. STAN LEE PRESENTS. . .

THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

IF HE WERE HUMAN, HIS CHILLING LAUGHTER AND BLAZING EYES WOULD SURELY INDICATE AN ADVANCED STAGE OF INSANITY!
BUT ARON IS NOT HUMAN!
HE IS A WATCHER!
A MEMBER OF AN INCALCULABLY POWERFUL RACE OF EXTRATERRESTRIALS WHO HAVE PASSIVELY OBSERVED THE PHENOMENA OF THE UNIVERSE FOR UNTOLD EONS.
HOWEVER, UNLIKE HIS STOIC BRETHREN, ARON IS NEITHER PASSIVE--
--NOR DOES HE SUBSCRIBE TO THEIR SACRED OATH WHICH FORBIDS THEM TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER RACES!
BRIMMING WITH INFECTIOUS JOY, FILLED WITH RIGHTEOUS ELATION, ARON HAS JUST CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION BECAUSE--

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WATCHERS SCHEME!

AT LAST! AT LONG LAST I CAN RID MYSELF OF YOU TROUBLESOME INSECTS!

WE CAME TO THE MOON-BASED CITADEL OF UATU... SEEKING ANSWERS TO HIS RECENT ERRATIC BEHAVIOR...BUT IT WAS YOU... IT WAS YOU ALL THE TIME!

CORRECT, RICHARDS! YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT! FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I HAVE SECRETLY MASQUERADED AS MY FELLOW WATCHER--

--SUBTLY MANEUVERING YOU THROUGH TIME AND SPACE IN A DESPERATE BID TO DISTRACT HIM FROM MY TRUE GOAL!

REALLY? AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU LIKED OUR COMPANY!

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SUE'S PLAYING FOR TIME! GOADING HIM TO TALK UNTIL WE'RE READY TO STRIKE!

SCOTT HAS BEEN WITH THE FF LONG ENOUGH TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD!

BUT KRISTOFF WAS RAISED BY DOCTOR DOOM! HE'S NEW AND UNTESTED! I DOUBT HE CAN BE TRUSTED!

A PULSE-POUNDING TALE FILLED WITH SO MUCH COSMIC SCOPE, SO MUCH GALACTIC GRANDEUR THAT IT COULD ONLY BE PRODUCED BY...

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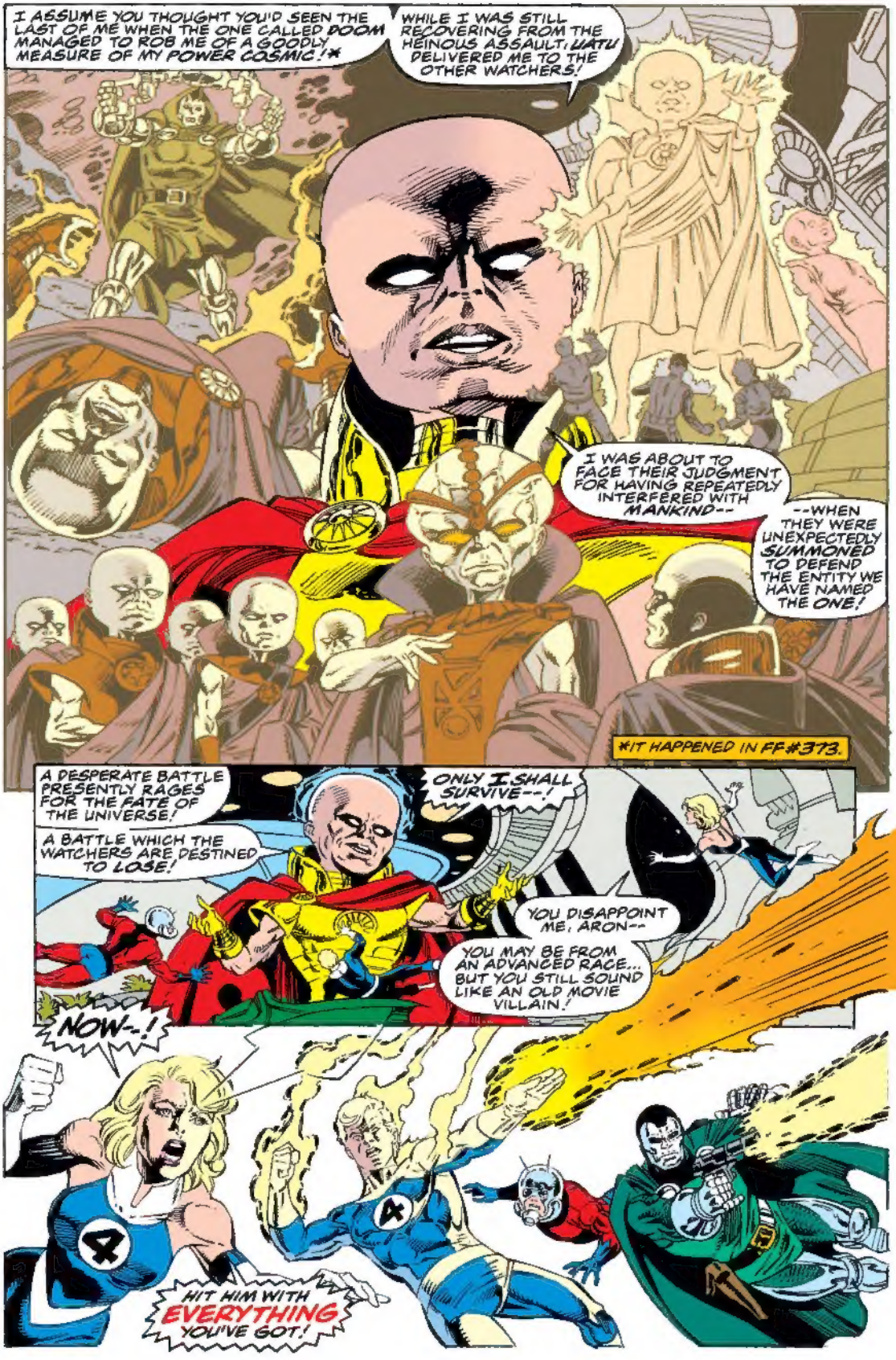
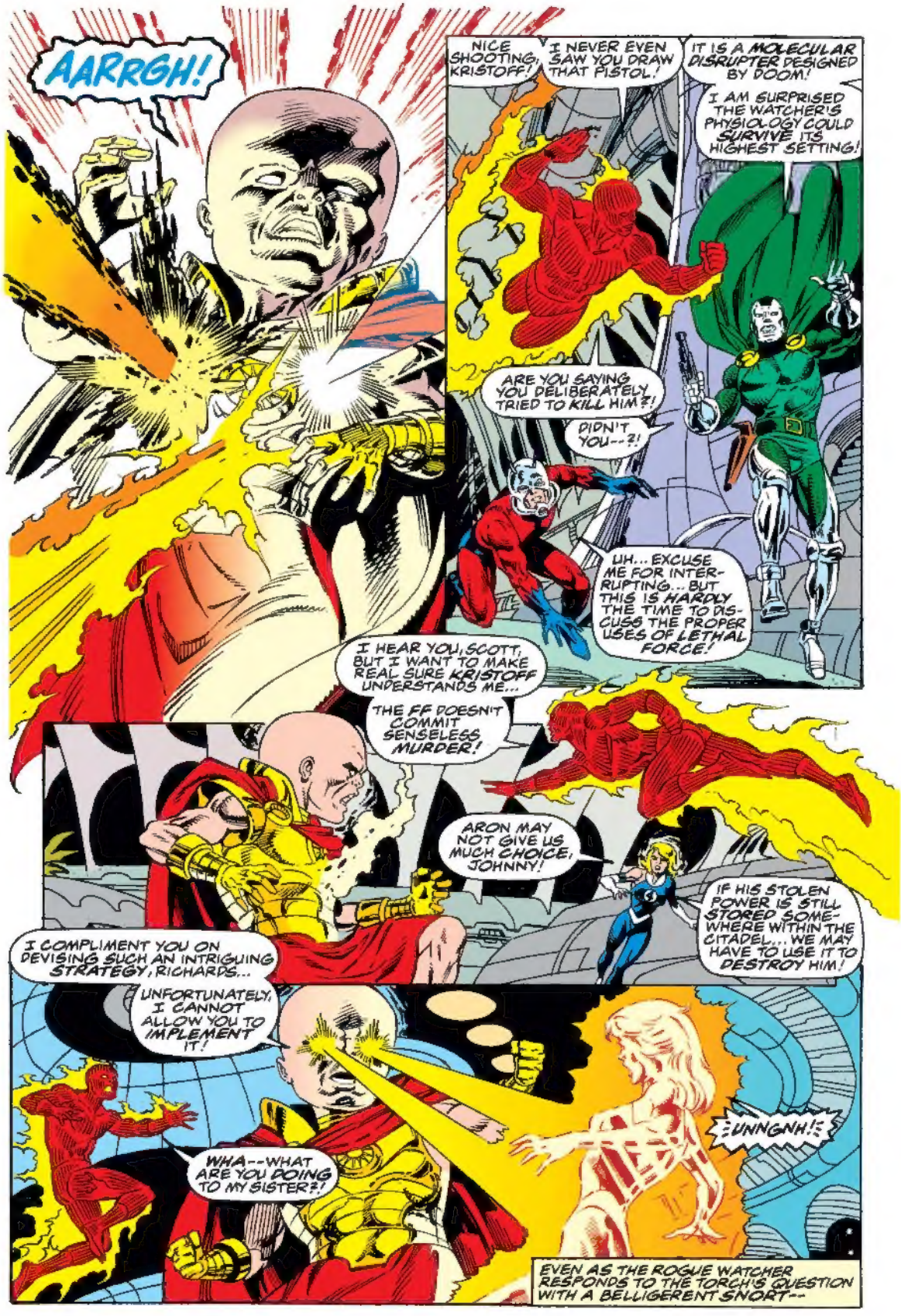
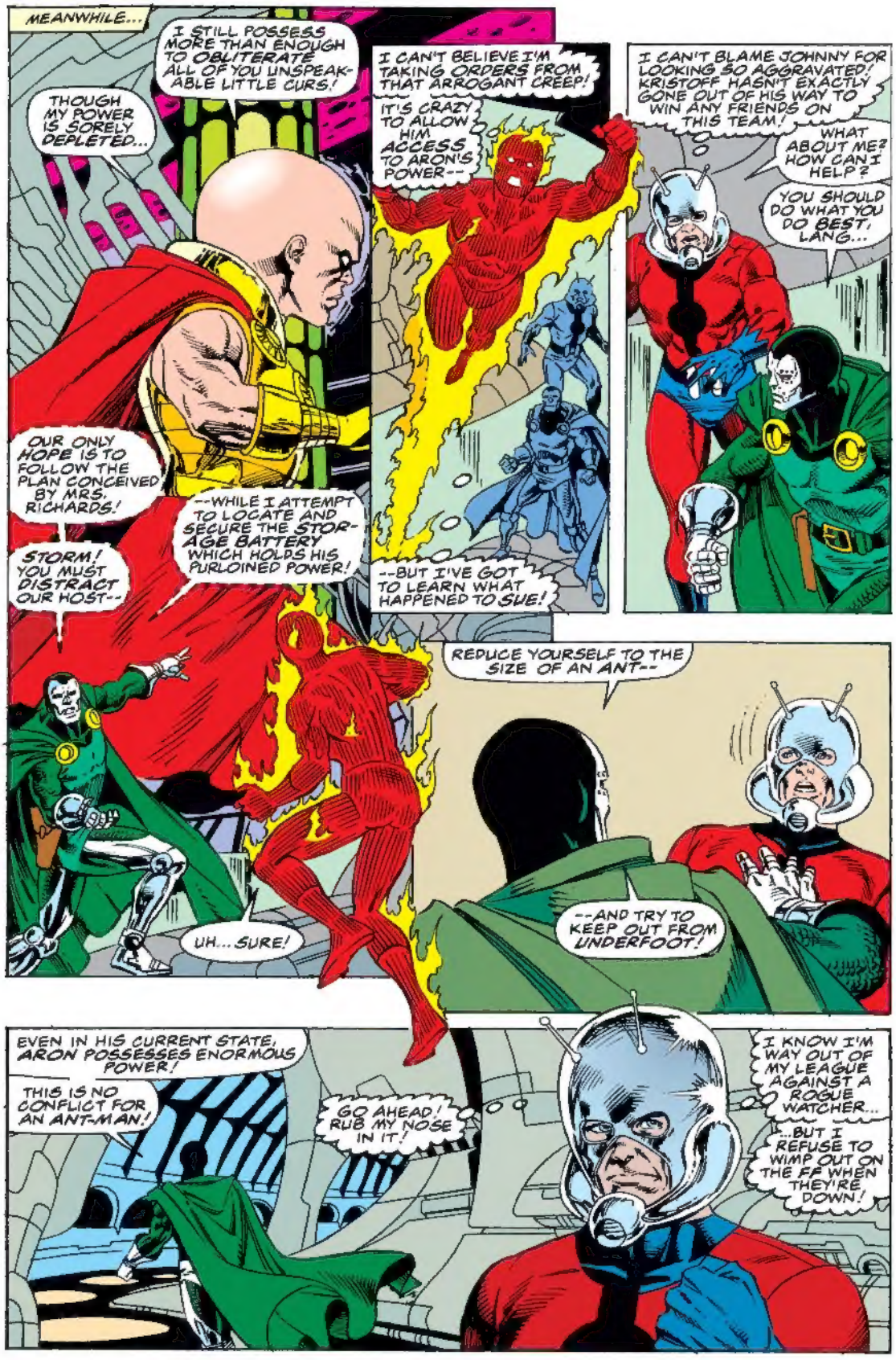
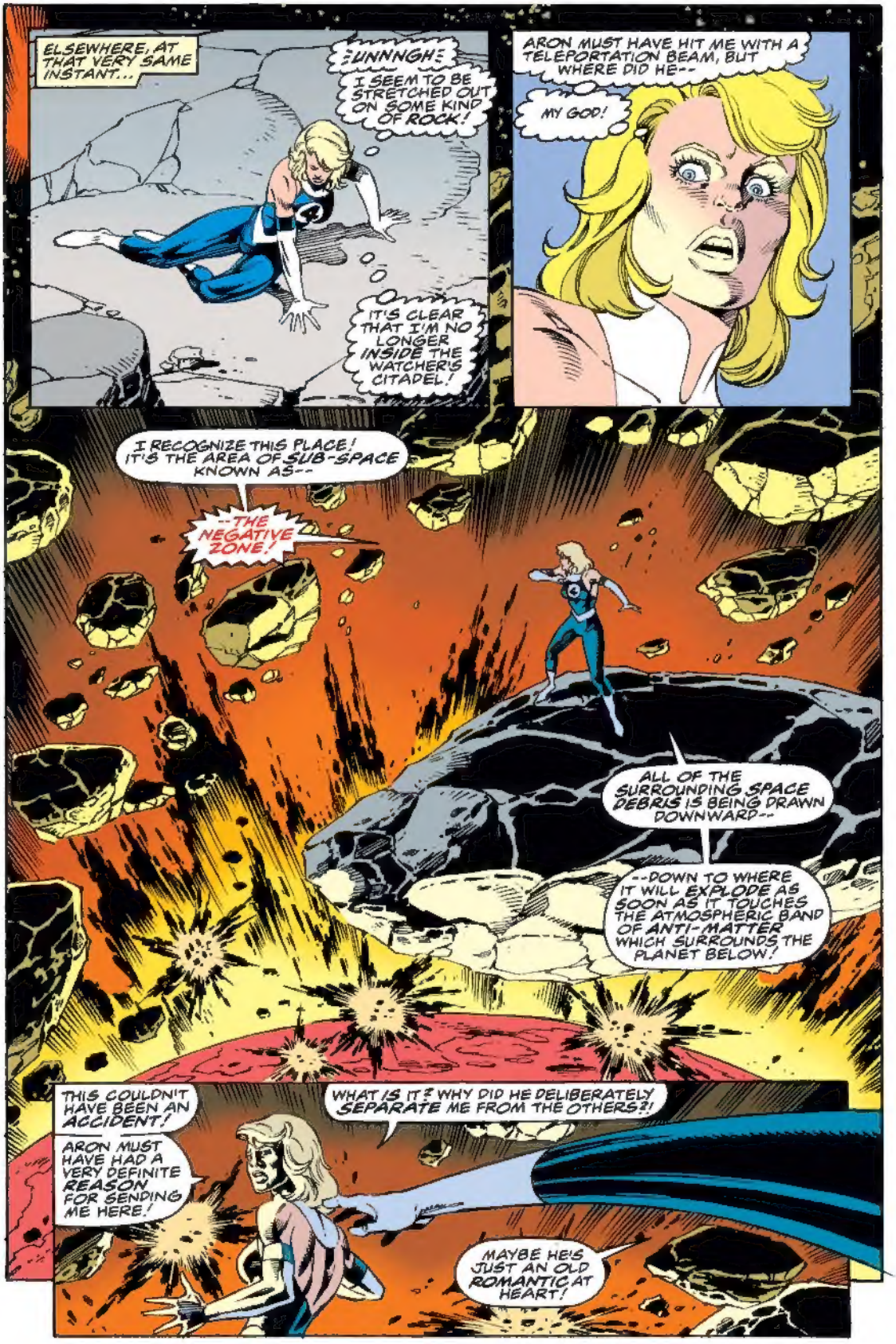

I ASSUME YOU THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN THE LAST OF ME WHEN THE ONE CALLED DOOM MANAGED TO ROB ME OF A GOODLY MEASURE OF MY POWER COSMIC!*
WHILE I WAS STILL RECOVERING FROM THE HEINOUS ASSAULT, UATU DELIVERED ME TO THE OTHER WATCHERS!
I WAS ABOUT TO FACE THEIR JUDGMENT FOR HAVING REPEATEDLY INTERFERED WITH MANKIND--
--WHEN THEY WERE UNEXPECTEDLY SUMMONED TO DEFEND THE ENTITY WE HAVE NAMED THE ONE!
*IT HAPPENED IN FF#373.
A DESPERATE BATTLE PRESENTLY RAGES FOR THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE!
A BATTLE WHICH THE WATCHERS ARE DESTINED TO LOSE!
ONLY I SHALL SURVIVE--!
YOU DISAPPOINT ME, ARON--
YOU MAY BE FROM AN ADVANCED RACE... BUT YOU STILL SOUND LIKE AN OLD MOVIE VILLAIN!
NOW--!
HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

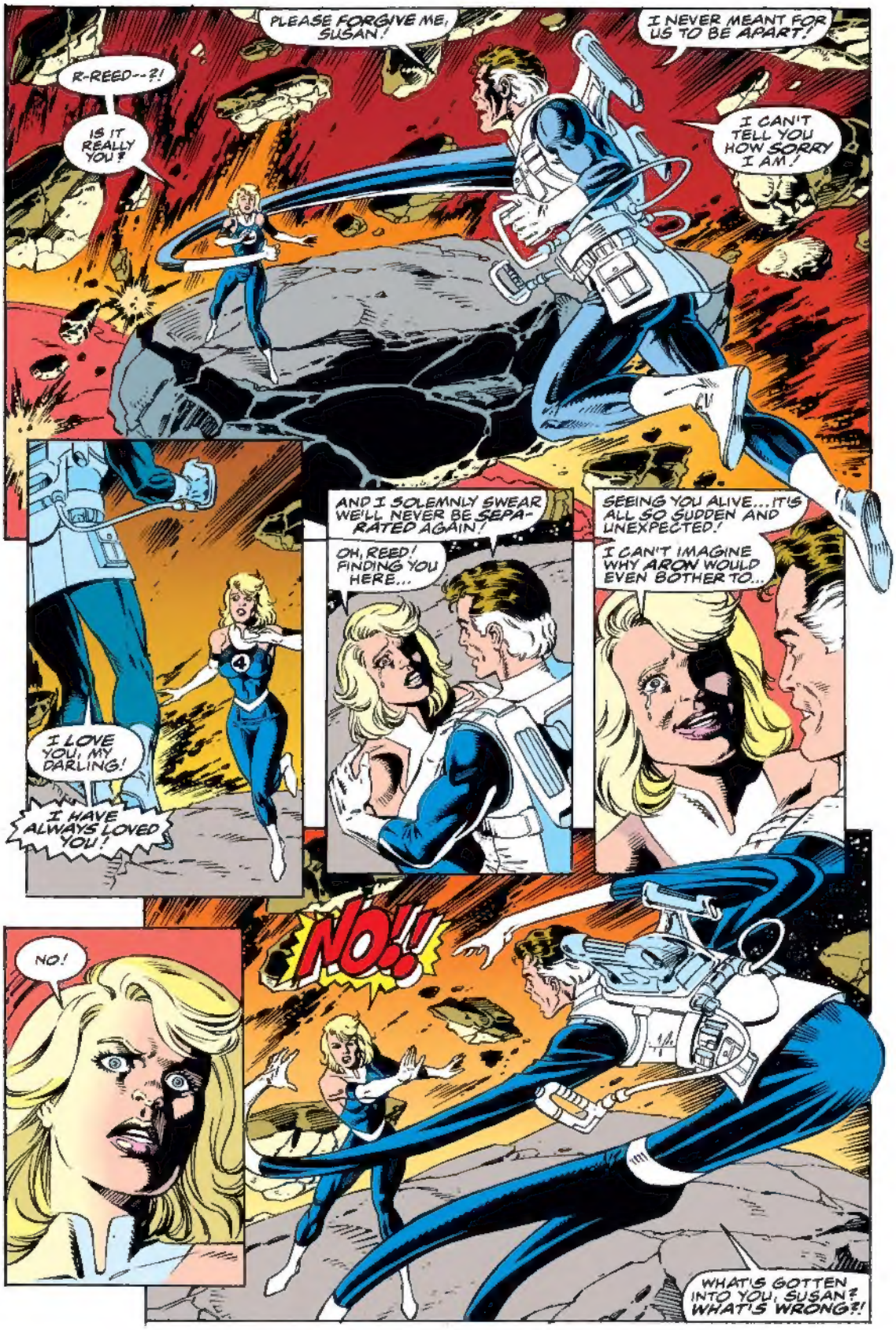

AARRGH!
NICE SHOOTING, KRISTOFF!
I NEVER EVEN SAW YOU DRAW THAT PISTOL!
IT IS A MOLECULAR DISRUPTER DESIGNED BY DOOM!
I AM SURPRISED THE WATCHER'S PHYSIOLOGY COULD SURVIVE ITS HIGHEST SETTING!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DELIBERATELY TRIED TO KILL HIM?!
DIDN'T YOU--?!
UH... EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING... BUT THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME TO DISCUSS THE PROPER USES OF LETHAL FORCE!
I HEAR YOU, SCOTT, BUT I WANT TO MAKE REAL SURE KRISTOFF UNDERSTANDS ME...
THE FF DOESN'T COMMIT SENSELESS MURDER!
ARON MAY NOT GIVE US MUCH CHOICE, JOHNNY!
IF HIS STOLEN POWER IS STILL STORED SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE CITADEL... WE MAY HAVE TO USE IT TO DESTROY HIM!
I COMPLIMENT YOU ON DEVISING SUCH AN INTRIGUING STRATEGY, RICHARDS...
UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO IMPLEMENT IT!
WHA--WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY SISTER?!
:UNNGNH!:
EVEN AS THE ROGUE WATCHER RESPONDS TO THE TORCH'S QUESTION WITH A BELLIGERENT SNORT--

--BEN GRIMM EXPERIENCES A MUCH SHARPER REBUKE!
BARELY FIVE MINUTES HAVE PASSED SINCE HE WAS RUDELY EXPELLED FROM UATU'S CITADEL!
LUCKILY, HE LANDED SAFELY WITHIN THE ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH COVERS THE SO-CALLED BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.
UNFORTUNATELY, SO DID A TEAM OF DEADLY INHUMANS!
YOU'RE JUST MY TYPE, HANDSOME!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PARTIAL TO MEN WHO CAN TAKE PUNISHMENT!
PLEASE CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND, MARGOYLE!
THE GENETICS COUNCIL BANNED THE FANTASTIC FOUR FROM THE MOON--AND THEY MUST NOW PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR DARING TO LAND HERE!
DO NOT WORRY, GENERAL ATOR!
EELAK THE AGILE WILL GLADLY EXECUTE THIS BASE INTRUDER!
BEHOLD! SEE HOW EASILY I CRUSH THE LIFE FROM HIM!
:ACKKK:
CW-AK
S-SORRY TA DISAPPOINT YA, PAL--
--BUT I PREFER BEIN' THE CRUSHER TA THE CRUSHEE!
HEY! I AIN'T DONE WITH THAT CREEP!
AS ANNOYING AS EELAK CAN BE ON OCCASION, HE IS STILL A MEMBER OF THE CRIMSON CADRE--AND I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO MISHANDLE HIM!

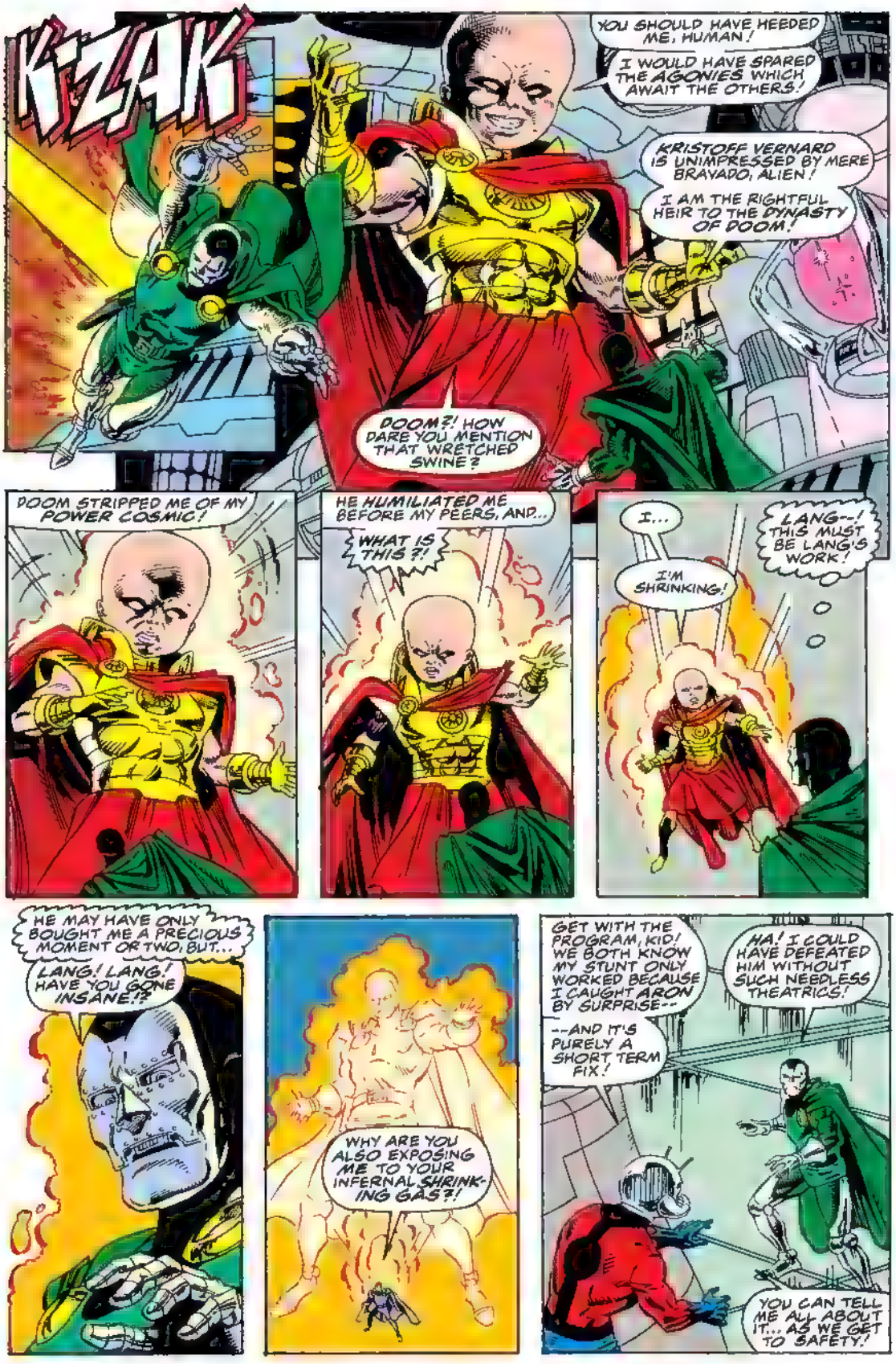
YESS, ROOTAR!
HISS FATE ISS SSEALED!
YEOW! CUT OUT THE HIGH-VOLTAGE BLASTS, WILL YA?
THERE AIN'T NO REASON FER US TA FIGHT!
MAYBE THE FF'N YER GENETICS COUNCIL DON'T EXACTLY SEE EYE-TA-EYE THESE DAYS...
BUT WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN REAL TIGHT WITH YER ROYAL FAMILY!
YA AIN'T LIVED UNTIL YA'VE SPENT A NIGHT SLAMMIN' BACK TEQUILAS WITH GORGON WHILE BABY-FACE KARNAK DANCED THE LAMBADA, AND, AW, MAN!
SUMTHIN' TELLS ME I DON'T WANNA KNOW WHAT I JUST STEPPED IN!
GLABOO SMASH!
WITH ATTITUDES LIKE THAT...
IT'S REAL OBVIOUS WHY THE MOON AIN'T NO HOT SPOT WITH THE TOURIST TRADE!
AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT...
...BEN'S CURRENT PLIGHT IS QUIETLY ASSESSED BY KRISTOFF'S FAITHFUL RETAINER.
WITHIN THE STEALTH-HAWK, WHICH IS PARKED BESIDE THE WATCHER'S CITADEL...
THE THING IS AS WITLESS AS HE IS INSUFFERABLE!
BUT HE MUST NOT DIE!
NOT YET!
WITH A SKILL ONE WOULD HARDLY ASCRIBE TO A SIMPLE PEASANT, BORIS CASUALLY ACTIVATES THE STEALTH-HAWK'S VAST WEAPONS ARRAY...


MEANWHILE...
I STILL POSSESS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO OBLITERATE ALL OF YOU UNSPEAKABLE LITTLE CURS!
THOUGH MY POWER IS SORELY DEPLETED...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M TAKING ORDERS FROM THAT ARROGANT CREEP!
IT'S CRAZY TO ALLOW HIM ACCESS TO ARON'S POWER--
I CAN'T BLAME JOHNNY FOR LOOKING SO AGGRAVATED! KRISTOFF HASN'T EXACTLY GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO WIN ANY FRIENDS ON THIS TEAM!
WHAT ABOUT ME? HOW CAN I HELP?
YOU SHOULD DO WHAT YOU DO BEST, LANG...
OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO FOLLOW THE PLAN CONCEIVED BY MRS. RICHARDS!
--WHILE I ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND SECURE THE STORAGE BATTERY WHICH HOLDS HIS PURLOINED POWER!
--BUT I'VE GOT TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENED TO SUE!
STORM! YOU MUST DISTRACT OUR HOST--
UH... SURE!
REDUCE YOURSELF TO THE SIZE OF AN ANT--
--AND TRY TO KEEP OUT FROM UNDERFOOT!
EVEN IN HIS CURRENT STATE, ARON POSSESSES ENORMOUS POWER!
THIS IS NO CONFLICT FOR AN ANT-MAN!
GO AHEAD! RUB MY NOSE IN IT!
I KNOW I'M WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE AGAINST A ROGUE WATCHER...
...BUT I REFUSE TO WIMP OUT ON THE FF WHEN THEY'RE DOWN!

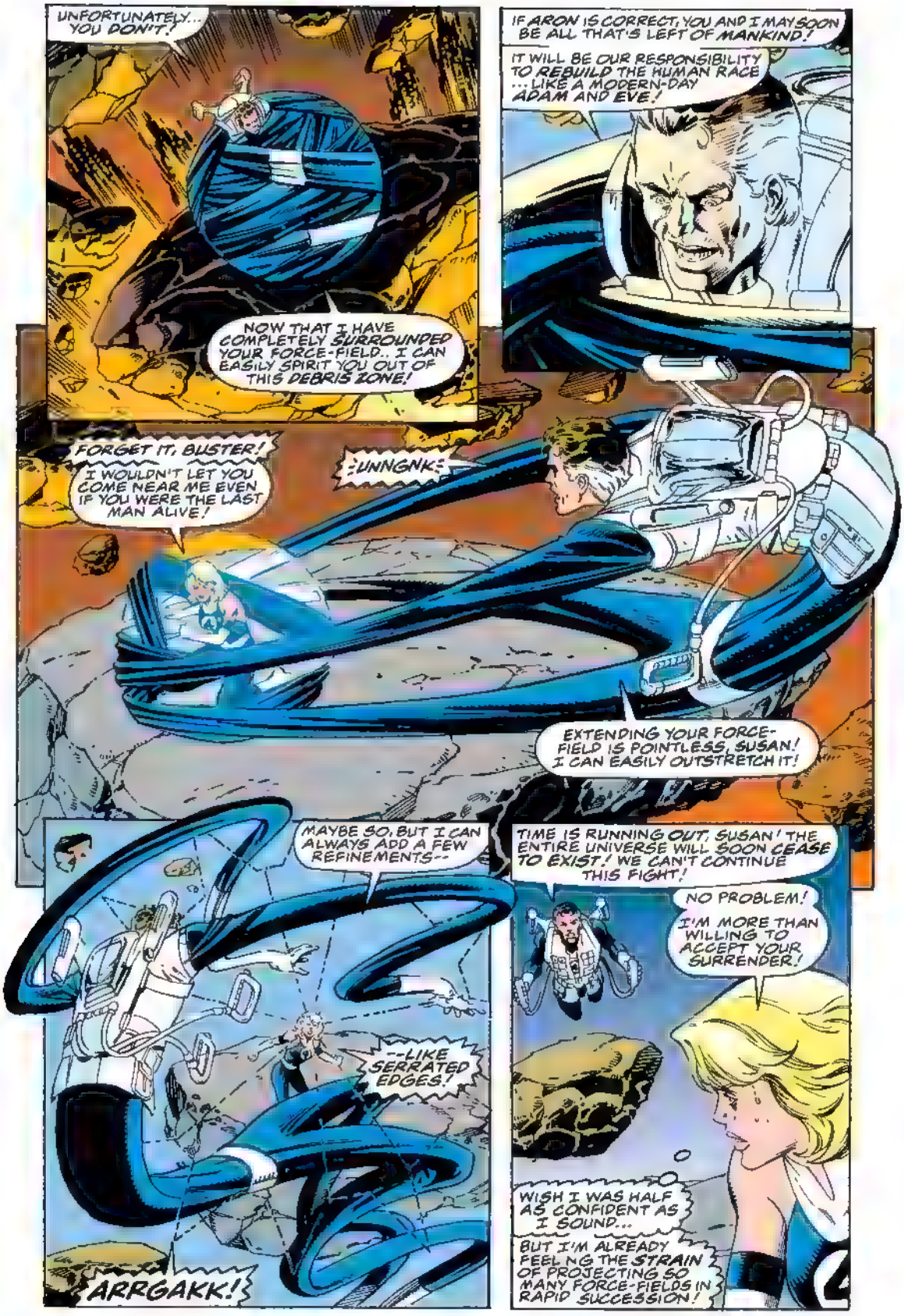

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY SAME INSTANT...
:UNNNGH:
I SEEM TO BE STRETCHED OUT ON SOME KIND OF ROCK!
IT'S CLEAR THAT I'M NO LONGER INSIDE THE WATCHER'S CITADEL!
ARON MUST HAVE HIT ME WITH A TELEPORTATION BEAM, BUT WHERE DID HE--
MY GOD!
I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE! IT'S THE AREA OF SUB-SPACE KNOWN AS--
--THE NEGATIVE ZONE!
ALL OF THE SURROUNDING SPACE DEBRIS IS BEING DRAWN DOWNWARD--
--DOWN TO WHERE IT WILL EXPLODE AS SOON AS IT TOUCHES THE ATMOSPHERIC BAND OF ANTI-MATTER WHICH SURROUNDS THE PLANET BELOW!
THIS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT!
ARON MUST HAVE HAD A VERY DEFINITE REASON FOR SENDING ME HERE!
WHAT IS IT? WHY DID HE DELIBERATELY SEPARATE ME FROM THE OTHERS?!
MAYBE HE'S JUST AN OLD ROMANTIC AT HEART!


PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SUSAN!
I NEVER MEANT FOR US TO BE APART!
R-REED--?!
IS IT REALLY YOU?
I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM!
I LOVE YOU, MY DARLING!
I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!
AND I SOLEMNLY SWEAR WE'LL NEVER BE SEPARATED AGAIN!
OH, REED! FINDING YOU HERE...
SEEING YOU ALIVE... IT'S ALL SO SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED!
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY ARON WOULD EVEN BOTHER TO...
NO!
NO!!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, SUSAN? WHAT'S WRONG?!

MEANWHILE...
MAYBE SO... BUT THEY'VE ALREADY SERVED THEIR PURPOSE!
I JUST NEEDED ENOUGH TIME TO COOK UP A FIRST-CLASS NOVA BLAST!
THIS OUGHT TO FORCE YOU TO RETURN MY SISTER!
YOUR JUVENILE DELAYING TACTICS ARE GROWING RATHER TIRE-SOME, TORCH!
I AM A WATCHER! TRAINED IN THE MOST METICULOUS METHODS OF OBSERVATION!
I CAN EASILY SPOT YOU AMONG YOUR FLAMING DUPLICATES!
I DOUBT IT!
YOUR USELESS FLAME CANNOT THREATEN ME!
UH-OH! HE TOOK MY BEST SHOT WITHOUT EVEN BLINKING--
--AND I'M NO CLOSER TO LEARNING WHERE HE DITCHED SUE!
I SEEM TO HAVE LOST SIGHT OF YOUR FRIENDS, TORCH...
"...WHERE ARE THEY?"
OH, MAN! KRISTOFF LED ME A MERRY CHASE THROUGH THIS SCIENTIFIC WONDERLAND!
HE SEEMS ENTRANCED WITH THAT GIZMO UP AHEAD!
HE'S REALLY BEEN WORKING ON IT... FRANTICALLY MAKING ALL SORTS OF ADJUSTMENTS!
THE QUESTION IS... WHY?!
MOVE AWAY FROM THAT STORAGE BATTERY, YOUNG MAN!

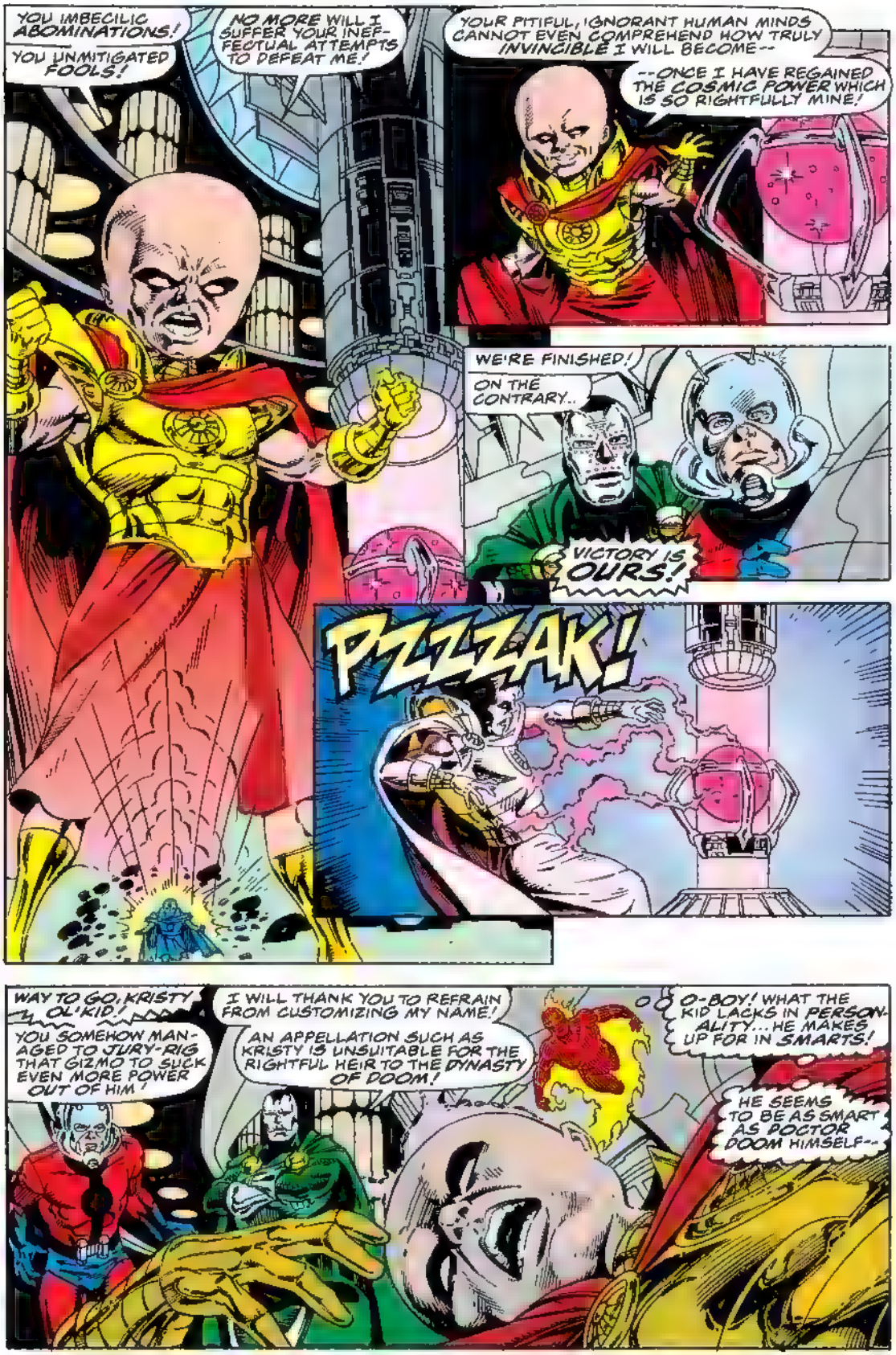

K'ZAK
YOU SHOULD HAVE HEEDED ME, HUMAN!
I WOULD HAVE SPARED THE AGONIES WHICH AWAIT THE OTHERS!
KRISTOFF VERNARD IS UNIMPRESSED BY MERE BRAVADO, ALIEN!
I AM THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE DYNASTY OF DOOM!
DOOM?! HOW DARE YOU MENTION THAT WRETCHED SWINE?
DOOM STRIPPED ME OF MY POWER COSMIC!
HE HUMILIATED ME BEFORE MY PEERS, AND...
WHAT IS THIS?!
I...
I'M SHRINKING!
LANG--! THIS MUST BE LANG'S WORK!
HE MAY HAVE ONLY BOUGHT ME A PRECIOUS MOMENT OR TWO, BUT...
LANG! LANG! HAVE YOU GONE INSANE!?
WHY ARE YOU ALSO EXPOSING ME TO YOUR INFERNAL SHRINKING GAS?!
GET WITH THE PROGRAM, KID! WE BOTH KNOW MY STUNT ONLY WORKED BECAUSE I CAUGHT ARON BY SURPRISE--
--AND IT'S PURELY A SHORT TERM FIX!
HA! I COULD HAVE DEFEATED HIM WITHOUT SUCH NEEDLESS THEATRICS!
YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT... AS WE GET TO SAFETY!

YOU MUST TRUST ME, SUSAN!
DROP YOUR INVISIBLE FORCE-SHIELD!
MY NYPER-HARNESS CAN CARRY US BOTH TO SAFETY!
YOU... YOU AREN'T MY REED!
YOU'RE FROM SOME PARALLEL WORLD! A WORLD WHICH WAS DESTROYED DUE TO YOUR CARELESSNESS!
I WON'T LIE TO YOU, MY DARLING!
IT'S TRUE! I AM THE MAN YOU ONCE KNEW AS THE DARK RAIDER!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE! IF YOU TRULY LOVED ONE REED RICHARDS...
...YOU COULD EVENTUALLY ACCEPT ANOTHER!
YOU'RE INSANE!
PERHAPS... BUT YOU CAN HEAL ME!
THINK ABOUT IT! WE BOTH LOST THE GREAT LOVES OF OUR LIVES--
--AND DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE!
NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
YOU MAY BE A LITTLE MORE HEADSTRONG AND OPINIONATED THAN MY SUE... BUT I'M SURE WE'LL LEARN TO ADJUST!

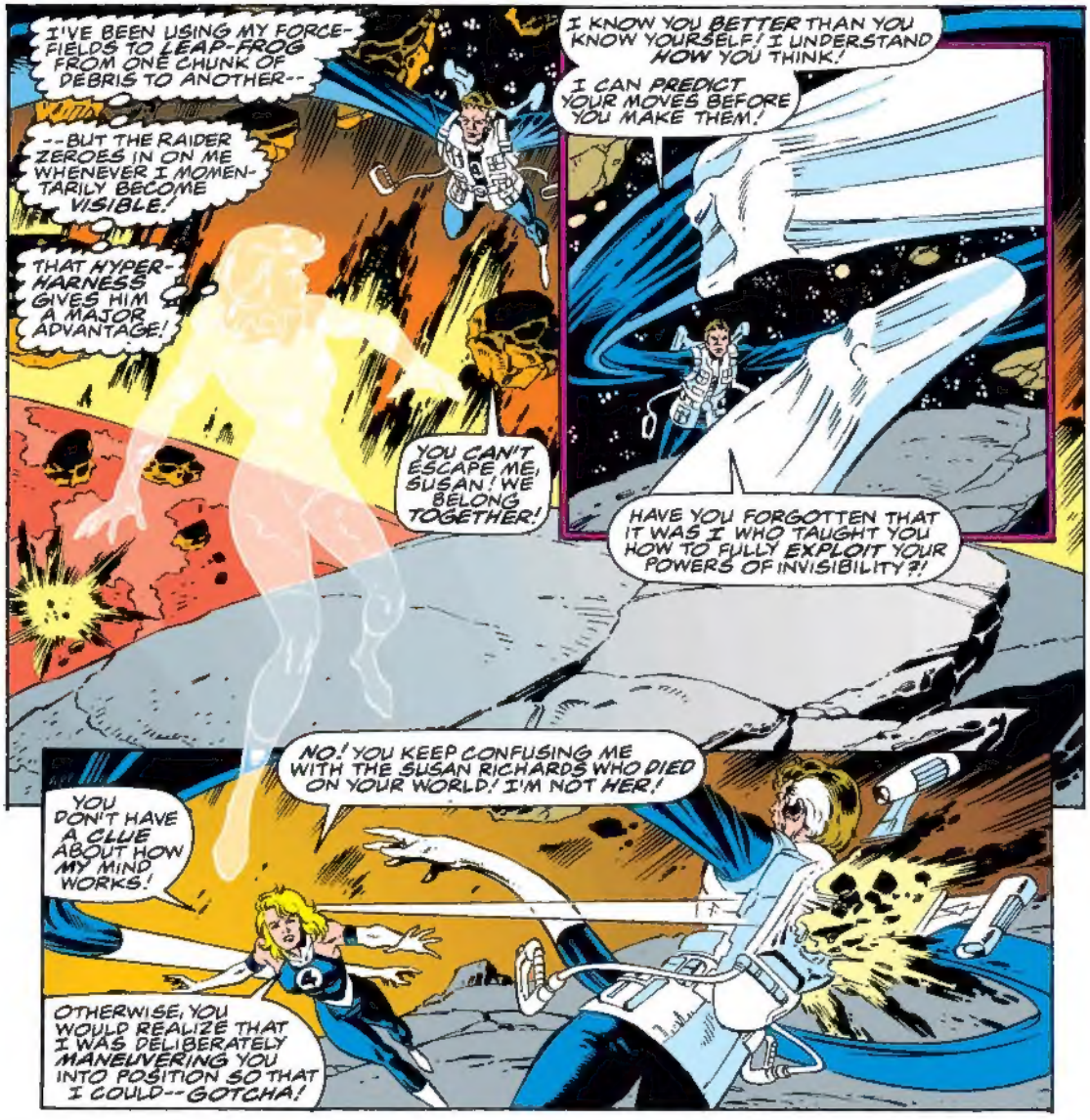

UNFORTUNATELY... YOU DON'T!
NOW THAT I HAVE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED YOUR FORCE-FIELD.. I CAN EASILY SPIRIT YOU OUT OF THIS DEBRIS ZONE!
IF ARON IS CORRECT, YOU AND I MAY SOON BE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF MANKIND!
IT WILL BE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REBUILD THE HUMAN RACE ...LIKE A MODERN-DAY ADAM AND EVE!
FORGET IT, BUSTER! I WOULDN'T LET YOU COME NEAR ME EVEN IF YOU WERE THE LAST MAN ALIVE!
:UNNGNK:
EXTENDING YOUR FORCE-FIELD IS POINTLESS, SUSAN! I CAN EASILY OUTSTRETCH IT!
MAYBE SO, BUT I CAN ALWAYS ADD A FEW REFINEMENTS--
--LIKE SERRATED EDGES!
ARRGAKK!
TIME IS RUNNING OUT, SUSAN! THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WILL SOON CEASE TO EXIST! WE CAN'T CONTINUE THIS FIGHT!
NO PROBLEM! I'M MORE THAN WILLING TO ACCEPT YOUR SURRENDER!
WISH I WAS HALF AS CONFIDENT AS I SOUND...
BUT I'M ALREADY FEELING THE STRAIN OF PROJECTING SO MANY FORCE-FIELDS IN RAPID SUCCESSION!

BACK OFF!
I'VE TRIED PLAYIN' MR. NICE GUY--!
ALL IT'S GOTTEN ME IS A FACE FULL'A PUNCHES!
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
EELAK! ROOTAR! TAKE HIS LEFT FLANK!
MARGOYLE! PULSSUS! ATTACK FROM THE RIGHT!
IT'S A REAL SHAME WE MUST CRUSH SUCH A CANTANKEROUS CUTIE!
PAY ATTENTION, MARGOYLE! THE ASSAULT IS TO BEGIN ON MY--
ZZLAK!
--COMMAND!

I HOPE I FINALLY HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION!
GENERAL ATOR, YOU ARE ADVISED TO WITHDRAW! THE NEXT MISSILE IS AIMED AT THE HEART OF ATTILAN!
WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE! THE FANTASTIC FOUR WOULD NEVER CONDONE SUCH RUTHLESSNESS!
I, HOWEVER, HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF DOCTOR DOOM...
HOW ON EARTH DID THIS OLD COOT FIGURE OUT HOW TO MOVE THE STEALTH-HAWK... AND PROGRAM ITS WEAPONS SYSTEM?!
TELL ME... ARE YOU AT ALL FAMILIAR WITH HIM?!
YOU AREN'T FOOLING ANYONE, OLD MAN! I HAVE STUDIED THE FANTASTIC FOUR WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THEY WOULD NEVER SACRIFICE THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS INHUMANS... MERELY TO SAVE ONE OF THEIR OWN!
SILENCE CHILLS THE AIR AS ONE TENSION-FILLED MOMENT FOLLOWS ANOTHER, AND THEN...
I SALUTE YOU, OLD MAN!
ON THIS DAY, YOU HAVE WON A GREAT VICTORY... AND EVEN GREATER ENEMIES!
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF THE CRIMSON CADRE, HUMANS!
COME ALONG, MR. GRIMM
I SUSPECT YOUR ASSOCIATES WILL EAGERLY WELCOME YOUR SERVICES WITHIN THE WATCHER'S CITADEL!
SUMTHIN' TELLS ME I'D BETTER KEEP A SHARP EYE ON THIS JOKER!
YER PROBABLY RIGHT!
BY THE WAY, BORIS... NICE BLUFF!
BLUFF--?!


YOU IMBECILIC ABOMINATIONS!
YOU UNMITIGATED FOOLS!
NO MORE WILL I SUFFER YOUR INEFFECTUAL ATTEMPTS TO DEFEAT ME!
YOUR PITIFUL, IGNORANT HUMAN MINDS CANNOT EVEN COMPREHEND HOW TRULY INVINCIBLE I WILL BECOME--
--ONCE I HAVE REGAINED THE COSMIC POWER WHICH IS SO RIGHTFULLY MINE!
WE'RE FINISHED!
ON THE CONTRARY..
VICTORY IS OURS!
PZZZAK!
WAY TO GO, KRISTY OL'KID!
YOU SOMEHOW MANAGED TO JURY-RIG THAT GIZMO TO SUCK EVEN MORE POWER OUT OF HIM!
I WILL THANK YOU TO REFRAIN FROM CUSTOMIZING MY NAME!
AN APPELLATION SUCH AS KRISTY IS UNSUITABLE FOR THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE DYNASTY OF DOOM!
O-BOY! WHAT THE KID LACKS IN PERSONALITY... HE MAKES UP FOR IN SMARTS!
HE SEEMS TO BE AS SMART AS DOCTOR DOOM HIMSELF--

--AND THAT'S A FACT I'M SURE WE'LL EVENTUALLY LIVE TO REGRET!
GAME'S OVER, ARON!
TELL US WHERE YOU STASHED MY SISTER, AND WE'LL GO EASY ON YOU!
DO NOT DELUDE YOURSELF, STORM... IT IS NOT BEYOND MY ABILITIES TO TRANSFORM APPARENT DEFEAT INTO GLITTERING TRIUMPH!
INSTEAD OF OBLITERATING YOU NOW--
--I WILL ALLOW YOU TO PERISH IN THE COMING CATACLYSM WITH THE REST OF YOUR INSIGNIFICANT RACE!
GOOD POINT! WE CAN USE UATU'S EQUIPMENT TO FIND SUE!
IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, LANG?
UH... I WAS JUST WONDERING EXACTLY HOW A WATCHER DEFINES A CATACLYSM!
WAIT! WHAT ABOUT SUE--?!
CONTROL YOURSELF, TORCH! THIS ENTIRE CITADEL IS DEVOTED TO OBSERVING THE PHENOMENA OF THE UNIVERSE--!
WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE DISTRACTED WITH SUCH IDLE SPECULATION!
ALL OF OUR EFFORTS MUST BE DEVOTED TO LOCATING MRS. RICHARDS!


I'VE BEEN USING MY FORCE-FIELDS TO LEAP-FROG FROM ONE CHUNK OF DEBRIS TO ANOTHER--
--BUT THE RAIDER ZEROES IN ON ME WHENEVER I MOMENTARILY BECOME VISIBLE!
THAT HYPER-HARNESS GIVES HIM A MAJOR ADVANTAGE!
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME, SUSAN! WE BELONG TOGETHER!
I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN YOU KNOW YOURSELF! I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU THINK!
I CAN PREDICT YOUR MOVES BEFORE YOU MAKE THEM!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT IT WAS I WHO TAUGHT YOU HOW TO FULLY EXPLOIT YOUR POWERS OF INVISIBILITY?!
NO! YOU KEEP CONFUSING ME WITH THE SUSAN RICHARDS WHO DIED ON YOUR WORLD! I'M NOT HER!
YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT HOW MY MIND WORKS!
OTHERWISE, YOU WOULD REALIZE THAT I WAS DELIBERATELY MANEUVERING YOU INTO POSITION SO THAT I COULD--GOTCHA!

ARE YOU INSANE, WOMAN?!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
MY HYPER-HARNESS WOULD HAVE TAKEN US SAFELY OUT OF THIS DEBRIS AREA!

EXPLODING WHEN WE HIT THE ATMOSPHERIC BAND OF ANTI-MATTER MAY BE THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS, PAL!
YOU AND ARON HAVE BOTH RECENTLY MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE...

THE BIG CRUNCH IS COMING!
THE COSMIC EXPANSION GENERATED BY THE BIG BANG WILL SOON GO INTO REVERSE... AND PULL ALL THE STARS AND PLANETS BACK INTO A SINGLE PRIMORDIAL MASS!
HOW ARE UATU AND THE OTHER WATCHERS INVOLVED?
THEY'RE CAUSING IT!
LIAR! UATU IS OUR FRIEND!
HE'S HELPED SAVE THE EARTH ON COUNTLESS OCCASIONS!
HE'D NEVER WILLINGLY AID THE DESTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSE!
DON'T BE NAIVE!
THE WATCHERS ARE ALIENS!
THEY HAVE THEIR OWN AGENDA!
ARON ONLY AGREED TO SPARE US BECAUSE I HELPED HIM MODIFY THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER, AND--OH, NO!
STAY CALM! I CAN ENVELOP YOU WITHIN A FORCE-FIELD!
DON'T BOTHER! I'LL SAVE MYSELF--
SNAK!
--AFTER I'VE DISPOSED OF YOU!
C-CARELESS! S-SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT COMING!
H-HEAD'S POUNDING!
E-EVERYTHING'S SPINNING!

SOMETHING'S WRONG! I MUST BE CAUGHT WITHIN SOME KIND OF SUB-SPATIAL CURRENT!
I'M BEING HELPLESSLY HAMMERED AND PULLED THROUGH THE VOID!
I THOUGHT I COULD STRETCH TO SAFETY... BUT I CAN'T CONTROL MY LIMBS!
HELP ME, SUSAN!
HELP ME!
S-SO HARD TO FOCUS!
C-CAN'T CONCENTRATE!
T-TAKE HOLD OF MY FORCE-STREAM! G-GRAB IT!
IT'S NO USE!
I CAN'T REACH IT!
D-DON'T QUIT ON ME, REED! Y-YOU MUSTN'T DESPAIR!
I-I'LL FIND A WAY TO SAVE YOU!
I'LL FIND A WAY...
I'M DOOMED, SUSAN! DOOMED!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I'M SORRY FOR HURTING YOU!
I AM SO VERY SORRY

HEY, YOU GUYS! I FINALLY MADE IT BACK AND-- HOLY SMOKES!
SUZIE! THAT LOOKS LIKE SUZIE STRETCHED FLAT ON THAT HUNK'A DEBRIS!
HOW'D SHE GET IN THE BLASTED NEGATIVE ZONE?!
ARON TELEPORTED HER! IT'S A LONG STORY! WE'LL UPDATE YOU LATER!
SAY... WHERE'S NATHANIEL?! HE WUZ STILL HERE WHEN I GOT TOSSED!
S'FUNNY, I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HE WAS GONE... BUT WE CAN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW!
WHAT ARE YA WAITIN' FER, RIVET FACE?
WHY DON'CHA USE THAT BIG GIZMO TO ZAP SUZIE BACK HERE?!
I AM AFRAID THAT IS BEYOND THE CAPABILITIES OF THIS PARTICULAR APPARATUS... OR ANYTHING ELSE AT OUR DISPOSAL!
"EVERYTHING WITHIN THIS CITADEL WAS DESIGNED FOR A WATCHER!
"FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF OBSERVATION!
"WE ARE HELPLESS! WE CAN NEITHER REACH MRS. RICHARDS... NOR CAN WE SAVE HER!
"ALL WE CAN DO IS STAND AND WATCH AS SHE IS RELENTLESSLY DRAWN CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE EXPLODING ZONE--
"--AND HER INEVITABLE DESTRUCTION!"
DON'T PANIC, FAITHFUL READER! THINGS MAY NOT BE AS HOPELESS AS THEY APPEAR! HELP IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE FROM A MOST UNEXPECTED SOURCE... AS THIS STORY CONTINUES IN... FANTASTIC FORCE #7!